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SPECIAL REPORT

Massachusetts Advisory Commission to Commemorate the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution

July, 1987

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"This tremendous educational effort, which touches every community within the Commonwealth, has been achieved by grass roots initiative, with little or no expense to the taxpayers."

Massachusetts Advisory Commission
to Commemorate the Bicentennial
of the United States Constitution

Michael S. Dukakis
Governor

The Honorable
Edward F. Hennessey
Chairman

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The Commission gratefully acknowledges the assistance and support of Patricia Boies, Christine Burak, Robert Clayman and J. Archer O'Reilly, and the financial and technical support of the Charrette Company, the John Hancock Company, the Shawmut Corporation, the Sheraton Corporation and Strathmore Paper Company.

. . . and special thanks to Cynthia Delfino and her fellow students at the Design Research Unit, Massachusetts College of Art for their outstanding graphic design work.

July 15, 1987

Excellency:

On behalf of the members of the Massachusetts Bicentennial Commission, I am pleased to report that citizen participation in this important commemoration has been extraordinary. This Special Report will provide you with some of the highlights of the effort. It is by no means a comprehensive list, but rather a sampling of some of the many innovative programs that have been developed by citizens throughout the Commonwealth.

The point that must be emphasized is that **this tremendous educational effort, which touches every community within the Commonwealth, has been achieved by grass roots initiative, with little or no expense to the taxpayers.**

On this report date, we have processed over 70 applications from cities and towns seeking recognition as official Bicentennial communities, and we anticipate that this number will increase substantially in coming months. Each of these communities has developed excellent plans for local participation. You will be pleased to note that Massachusetts has consistently ranked among the top five states in the nation in Bicentennial community enrollments and activity.

Bicentennial programs in Massachusetts have been designed to reach every age group and learning level. While some programs are short term celebrations, the groundwork has been laid to arouse a renewed interest in the Constitution, both as a document and as the blueprint for our national government. This is truly a celebration of *We the People.*

We look forward to increased participation in the Bicentennial commemoration as September 17th approaches. We also see significant support for activities to mark the 200th anniversary of the date when Massachusetts ratified the Constitution, February 6, 1988.

The citizens that have worked to produce this distinct record of accomplishment deserve our praise and our gratitude. The Commission members also commend our one-person staff, Margaret Cavanaugh, for her tireless efforts and extraordinarily successful contributions.

Sincerely,

Edward F. Hennessey

Edward F. Hennessey
Chairman

THE BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Major Accomplishments

1780

Massachusetts votes to adopt the Massachusetts Constitution. Framed by John Adams and his associates, the document is the oldest written constitution still governing in the world.

The Massachusetts Constitution is among the first in the world to declare the natural rights of man and to establish a strong and free government to secure them.

Established information and resource clearinghouse;

Sponsored or supported a large number of educational programs for the study of the Constitution at every grade level in Massachusetts schools;

Solicited enrollment of over 70 Bicentennial communities, placing Massachusetts among the five leading states in the nation in community enrollments;

Published quarterly newsletter, *The Spirit of the Constitution;*

Hosted and coordinated two major conferences for communities and organizations to develop plans for the commemoration;

Established a speakers' bureau;

Distributed thousands of informational packages nationwide;

Distributed thousands of copies of the Constitution;

Designed and distributed special Massachusetts Bicentennial poster;

Designed and distributed special Massachusetts postal cancellation and commemorative envelope;

Since February of 1986, Commission members and the Commission's Executive Director have made thousands of contacts with individuals, groups and institutions to enhance the commemoration.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court relies upon the Declaration of Rights sections to make our state the first to declare slavery unlawful.

1781

Ratification of Articles of Confederation by thirteen states.

EXHIBITS

and Living History Programs

Commonwealth Museum
220 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125

Shays' Rebellion: Thundercloud for the New Nation

Special exhibit on Shays' Rebellion focused on the great issue, was Daniel Shays a hero or an outlaw? The 1786–87 Rebellion against taxation and foreclosure was named after one of the popular leaders, Daniel Shays, a former Captain in the Revolutionary War. After fighting in the war, Shays settled in Pelham where he experienced the economic depression and tax woes affecting other farmers throughout Massachusetts. Mobilizing dissent, Shays became a hero in the eyes of the farmers and an outlaw to government supporters trying to maintain order in the new Commonwealth.

Supplementary educational materials are available for teachers; in addition, a series of posters, *Between the Revolution and the Constitution: A Crisis for the New Nation,* was produced by The Division of Continuing Education at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst in cooperation with the Commonwealth Museum. This "museum exhibit in a tube" is available to teaching institutions and libraries throughout the Commonwealth.

By What Right? . . . The Constitution and Civil Liberties

This exhibit addresses contemporary constitutional issues through interactive computer and video dramatizations. Four video dramas explain search and seizure, freedom of speech, cruel and unusual punishment, and freedom of religion.

Highlights include a life-size puppet of Sam Adams engaging video actors in debate, and the opportunity for visitors to express their opinions in a computerized ballot box. Supplementary educational materials available for teachers.

Springfield Library and Museum Association
220 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103

The U.S. Constitution and the 18th Century Age of Enlightenment

Exhibit shows how the document was influenced by a cultural movement which questioned traditional values, emphasized individualism and the idea of universal human progress, the empirical method in science, and the free use of reason.

We the People: Springfield and the Constitution

Life in the Connecticut Valley during the era of the Constitution.

Old Sturbridge Village
Sturbridge, MA 01566

Old Sturbridge Village and the Constitution

Living history productions on constitutional issues confronting residents of a New England village set in the 1830's.

Continuing with the program, a special exhibit, *We the People,* uses objects and pictures to show the role of the Constitution in 19th-century New England.

Boston Public Library
Copley Square
Boston, MA 02117

Special exhibition of the *Magna Carta* and lectures by A.E. Dick Howard of the University of Virginia and Prof. Thomas O'Connor of Boston College, member of the National Bicentennial Commission.

Are We to Be a Nation?

Photo-reproductions of prints, maps, portraits and cartoons assembled by the New York Public Library and lecture by Associate Justice Paul Liacos of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

1786

September 11–14th Annapolis Convention. States participating vote to convene a new meeting to be held in Philadelphia in May 1787.

Boston Library Consortium
at Boston Public Library
Copley Square
Boston, MA 02117

The U.S. Constitution, 1787–1788: From Debate to Ratification

An exhibition of material from the collections of the members of the Boston Library Consortium including Boston College, Boston Public Library, Boston University, Brandeis University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northeastern University, State Library of Massachusetts, Tufts University, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, University of Massachusetts at Boston, University of Massachusetts at Worcester and Wellesley College.

Museum of Our National Heritage
33 Marrett Road
Lexington, MA 02173

To Form a More Perfect Union: The U.S. Constitution 1787–1987

Exhibition, featuring important early documents, examines four aspects of the functioning of government: Federalism and the Constitution, Separation of Powers, How the Constitution Changes, and Individual Rights and Liberties. Organized in cooperation with the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Massachusetts Archives, and other state and federal agencies.

Norman Rockwell Museum, The Red Lion Inn and the Stockbridge Historical Society
Stockbridge, MA 01262

Celebration of the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution

Exhibit emphasizes the work of Stockbridge citizens, artist Norman Rockwell and prominent statesman and Federalist of the Constitutional era, Theodore Sedgwick.

Boston National Historical Park
15 State Street
Boston, MA 02109

The Ratification of the Constitution in Massachusetts: A Town Meeting

Living history programs throughout Summer, 1987 at Faneuil Hall. Constitutional issues are discussed in a 1788 Boston setting.

Ratification of the Federal Constitution: Conflict and Compromise

Reproductions of important prints of people, places and documents concerning the ratification of the Constitution in Massachusetts.

Prudential Center
Boston, MA

Salute to the Constitution
Seventh Annual Summerfest—July 1987

Special exhibits and events commemorating the Bicentennial. Visitors invited to sign a 46″ x 10′ canvas reproduction of the Constitution.

American Express Company
and the
U.S. Constitution Council
of the 13 Original States

Magna Carta to the Constitution: Roads to Liberty

Mobile exhibit containing the Magna Carta, Pierce Butler draft of the U.S. Constitution, the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut, the Emancipation Proclamation and the Declaration of Independence. Facsimiles of the Mayflower Compact, the Articles of Confederation, and the Northwest Ordinance also displayed. Among the artifacts collected for the exhibit are antique newspapers, rare coins, pictures and maps from the Colonial period in America.

Special Massachusetts section coordinated by the Massachusetts State Library. Tours Boston, New Bedford, Worcester and Springfield between July 12th–17th.

1786

August through December, agrarian unrest in Massachusetts stems from economic conditions. Farmers force courts to close in western counties. The populist insurrection becomes known as "Shays' Rebellion." In December, Governor Bowdoin calls out a special state army to suppress the revolt.

EDUCATIONAL *Programs*

Lawyers in the Classroom

Major educational campaign by the Massachusetts Bar Association to place lawyers in middle and high school classrooms on September 17, 1987 to lead discussion groups on the history and meaning of the Constitution.

The Constitution: How Does the Separation of Powers Help Make It Work?

National Bicentennial high school writing competition sponsored by National and Massachusetts Bicentennial Commissions and *USA Today*.

National Bicentennial Mock Trial Program and Student Seminar on the Judiciary, the Constitution and Dispute Resolution.

This week-long educational program brings teams of high school students from all states to Washington, D.C. Teams composed of members of either state mock trial competitions or law related education programs. Sponsored by the American and Massachusetts Bar Associations.

Liberty: Rights and Responsibilities in History

National History Day competition for 6–12th graders in research, writing and presentations, culminating in a national event in Maryland. Sponsored by the Massachusetts Council for the Social Studies.

The Bicentennial: Something Worthy of Celebration

National oratorical competition sponsored by the American Legion. Winner is Massachusetts student, Maryagnes Barbiery of Milton Academy.

"Does the allocation of power between the federal and state governments contribute to the preservation of individual liberty and the functioning of government?"

Essay competition for law school students sponsored by West Publishing Company.

Two Federalists

Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities educational program for Boston school children. Compares the lives and cultural history of two prominent Bostonians of the Federalist period, Harrison Gray Otis and William Eustis.

Your Rights and Responsibilities Under the Constitution
and
An Enduring Constitution Through Partnerships in Law-Related Education

Two major programs, among a number of ongoing educational initiatives with a Bicentennial theme. Coordinated by Robert Clayman, Director of Massachusetts Law-Related Education, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Court System.

Constitution 200: A Bicentennial Summer Institute for Teachers

The Institute, at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, features keynote address by Henry Steele Commager. This intensive, nonresidential program in Summer '87 offers a comprehensive overview of Constitutional history and issues related to the Constitution and American life. Participants receive a $100 stipend, and graduate credit is available.

Sponsored by Massachusetts Board of Regents of Higher Education, Hampshire Educational Collaborative and University of Massachusetts/Amherst.

James Madison Memorial Fellowships

Legislation creating program introduced by Senator Edward M. Kennedy. Program designed to enhance the study of the Constitution through fellowships for study at the master's level. Senior Fellow—Summer '87 is Donald Salvucci of Brockton High School.

The Great Debate of '88

Under the terms of a $50,000 grant from the National Bicentennial Commission, high school students and their teachers from Massachusetts and Maine learn skills for research into original town records. The purpose of the search is to gather personal data on the delegates, and on the Federalist or anti-Federalist arguments put forth during the Massachusetts Ratification Debates held in Boston in February, 1788.

Students will convene in February, 1988 to recreate and debate historical and contemporary constitutional issues. The program is sponsored by the Massachusetts Council of the Social Studies with support from the Massachusetts Bicentennial Commission and several state agencies from Massachusetts and Maine.

1787

In January, Shaysites defeated by state army in attack on Springfield armory. Additional rebel losses later incurred in Petersham and Sheffield.

March 10th Massachusetts General Court appoints delegates to the convention in Philadelphia.

LIBRARY *Programs*

Bicentennial Bookshelf Grants

Given to Massachusetts libraries by the National Endowment for the Humanities to purchase educational material on the Constitution for local libraries.

Libraries receiving grants located in Ashburnham, Avon, Barnstable, Brockton, Chelsea, Cohasset, Danvers, Dover, Duxbury, East Bridgewater, Everett, Fairhaven, Franklin, Gloucester, Grafton, Hanson, Harvard, Holbrook, Holyoke, Hull, Kingston, Leominster, Lincoln, Lunenburg, Lynn, Nahant, Newton, Norfolk, Northborough, Norwell, Pelham, Rockland, Saugus, Seekonk, Somerville, Sterling, Stoneham, Waltham, Wareham, Wayland, West Tisbury, Westfield.

New England and the Constitution

Series of discussion groups, concerts and a play, *The Other Boston Tea Party.* Sponsored by the New England Library Association and the New England Foundation for the Humanities throughout the six-state region.

State Library Bicentennial Collection

A special collection established in the Massachusetts State Library to house and preserve memorabilia from the Bicentennial celebration in Massachusetts. This will be a source of vital research information for future generations of scholars.

Braille Edition of the U.S. Constitution

The National Braille Press, Inc. of Boston, with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, publishes braille editions of the Constitution. The National Braille Press also received a special merit citation for its work by Governor Michael Dukakis.

1787

May 25th
Constitution Convention convenes in Philadelphia with Massachusetts delegates Rufus King, Nathaniel Gorham, Caleb Strong and Elbridge Gerry representing Massachusetts.

September 17th
Constitution signed by 39 of 42 delegates present. King and Gorham sign, Strong indicates support but is not among the signers, and Gerry refuses to support the document.

MEDIA

PUBLICATIONS *and* FILMS

1787

September 28th
The Congress of the Confederation resolves to submit the Constitution to the states for ratification.

October 25th
Massachusetts General Court authorizes a separate convention in January to discuss ratification.

Shays' Rebellion 1786–1787: A Guide to the Sites in Connecticut Valley

Published by Prof. Kerry Buckley, Humanities Coordinator, Division of Continuing Education, University of Massachusetts/Amherst.

Between the Revolution and the Constitution: A Crisis for the New Nation

Poster series jointly published by University of Massachusetts/Amherst—Division of Continuing Education, and the Commonwealth Museum.

A Little Rebellion Now and Then: Prologue to the Constitution

Film produced by Calliope Films of Somerville, MA with funding from the Massachusetts Foundation for Humanities and Public Policy.

Lincoln and Fort Sumter

WGBY-TV public television in western Massachusetts documentary, the first in a series of historical dramas that examine American presidents during moments of critical decision making.

We the People: Seven Celebrating the Constitution

WNEV-Channel 7 (Boston) year-long public service programming on the Constitution. Winner of achievement award from Action for Children's Television, a non-profit organization working to encourage diversity in children's television and eliminate commercial abuses targeted to children.

We the People—Constitutional Bicentennial Series

Boston Globe series on the development of the U.S. Constitution 200 years ago, published throughout the Bicentennial year.

This Momentous Affair: The Bay State and the Ratification of the Constitution of the United States

Book written by Professors Thomas O'Connor and Alan Rogers of the History Department, Boston College. Published in cooperation with the Boston Bicentennial Commission and the Boston Public Library.

Feature articles on historical and contemporary constitutional issues in major market newspapers throughout Massachusetts.

Extensive creative use of local access cable television by community groups and grass roots organizations for Bicentennial programs.

1788

January 9th Massachusetts convenes its convention with 364 delegates from 318 towns.

CONFERENCES,

Shays' Rebellion and the Constitution

Important international symposium sponsored by Historic Deerfield and Amherst College (November, 1986).

The Spirit of American Democracy

48th National Conference of the American Society for Public Administration (March, 1986). Plenary sessions on important constitutional issues, a town meeting moderated by Governor Michael Dukakis, and computerized polling on 13 constitutional issues.

Are We to Continue to Be a Nation?

Lecture by the Honorable Paul J. Liacos, Associate Justice, Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. Sponsored by the Boston Public Library.

Salute to the Constitution

Special lecture by Prof. Laurence Tribe of Harvard University at Faneuil Hall. Sponsored by Ford Hall Forum of Boston, MA.

Our Constitution, Our Republic — Interpreting an American Success

Conference on constitutional issues sponsored by the National Park Service and the Bay State Historical League (October, 1986).

Constitutionalism and Rights Consciousness in American History

Major symposium on constitutional issues at University of Massachusetts/Amherst (November, 1986). Papers to be published in special Bicentennial edition of the *Journal of American History.*

We the People: A Gala Celebration

Series of lectures in Spring, 1987 featuring Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., General Alexander Haig, Jr. and former President Jimmy Carter. Sponsored by Massachusetts Bay Community College, Wellesley, MA.

Four Types of Constitution and the Defense of Fundamental Rights

Lecture by Dr. Guido Calabresi, Dean of Yale Law School, at Wilson Auditorium, Westfield State College (April 2, 1987).

The First Amendment and the Freedom of the Press —Where Are We and Where Are We Going?

Lecture by Associate Justice Harry A. Blackmun, United States Supreme Court. Co-sponsored by the American Antiquarian Society, the Massachusetts Historical Society and the Boston Public Library (April 14, 1987).

Living in a Society With a Constitution

Law Day (May 1, 1987) program jointly sponsored by Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education, Inc. and the Massachusetts Bicentennial Commission.

Program chaired by the Honorable Edward F. Hennessey, Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. Address by Harvard Law School Professor, Emeritus, Paul M. Freund followed by panel discussions moderated by S. Stephen Rosenfeld, Chief Legal Counsel to Governor Dukakis and *New York Times* columnist, Anthony Lewis on "Privacy versus Government Regulation" and "Journalism and the First Amendment."

Panelists included Massachusetts Senate President William Bulger, Massachusetts Congressman Barney Frank, Boston University President John Silber, Attorney David Boies, Boston College History Professor Thomas O'Connor and Harvard University Law School Professor Alan Dershowitz.

We the People

Lecture series sponsored by Bostonian Society, National Park Service and Old South Association during April, 1987 at the Old South Meeting House in Boston.

The Confidence Man and the Preacher: The Cultural Politics of Shays' Rebellion. Robert Gross, Lecturer.

The Federalist and the Anti-Federalist Controversy in the Bay State. Pauline Maier, Lecturer.

A Government of Laws and Not of Men: John Adams and the United States Constitution. Richard Ryerson, Lecturer.

Another View: Shays' Rebellion and the Constitution. John Brooke, Lecturer

1788

February 6th
Massachusetts becomes the sixth state to ratify with a vote of 187 to 168. Crucial to the vote to ratify is the agreement that the state press for amendment of the document to include a Bill of Rights.

June 21st
New Hampshire becomes the ninth state to ratify; requirements for adoption of the Constitution are now met.

LECTURES *and Panel Discussions*

Jefferson Meeting

The Jefferson Meeting on the Constitution involves citizens in study and debate about issues related to the structure and performance of American national government. Keynote speech followed by open discussion on two major constitutional questions: the line-item veto and the length of legislative terms of office. Sponsored by Museum of Our National Heritage and the Massachusetts League of Women Voters.

America's Constitutional Bicentennial: Celebration and Cerebration

Harvard University discussion group led by Visiting Researcher, Howard Yourow (Spring 1986).

Constitutional Forums

Starting in September, 1987 the U.S.S. Constitution Museum in Boston begins a series of forums addressing important constitutional issues: *War Powers and the Presidency; The Judiciary: Gone Too Far?* and *The Bill of Rights and the Concept of Citizenship.*

The Spirit of the Constitution

Annual conference of the Massachusetts Trial Court, Office of Commissioner of Probation. Keynote address by Chief Justice Edward F. Hennessey of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (May 14, 1987).

The First Amendment: A Media-Judiciary Dialogue

Members of the media, judiciary and bar gather at Faneuil Hall, Boston in June, 1987 to discuss important constitutional issues surrounding the application of freedom of the press. Sponsored by the National Conference of State Trial Judges, National Judicial College and professional associations representing the bar and the media.

The Constitution and Race

Conference of Black Lawyers meets at Harvard University in September, 1987 to discuss racial issues and the effect of the Constitution on them. Sponsored by the National Conference of Black Lawyers of Cambridge, MA.

Lyceum Salutes the Constitution

The Institute of Italian-American Studies in Cambridge has scheduled four programs to examine constitutional parallels in Italian and American political frameworks.

The Constitution Observed: Early Italian Reaction to the American Constitution. Lecture by Prof. Emiliana Noether of the University of Connecticut;

Mazzei and the Constitutional Society of 1785. Lecture by Sr. Margherita Marchione of Farleigh Dickinson University;

American Federalism and Republicanism: Constitutional Models for Italian Nationalists in the 19th Century. Lecture by Prof. Emiliana Noether;

The American Constitution: Symbol and Reality for Italy. International symposium at Harvard University.

Women and the Constitution: A Bicentennial Perspective

Massachusetts scholars are preparing papers for presentation at a major symposium to be held in Atlanta in February '88. This will be a scholarly, reflective approach to frank discussions about the Constitution and its impact on the majority of American citizens—women. Prof. Fran Burke of Suffolk University School of Management is coordinating participation by Massachusetts. The program is a collaborative effort of the Carter Center of Emory University, Georgia State University and the Jimmy Carter Library.

Constitutional Crisis: The Drive Towards Secret Government

Lecture by John Roberts, President of the Massachusetts Civil Liberties Union. Sponsored by the McCormack Institute at University of Massachusetts/Boston and the Office of the Massachusetts Secretary of State.

1789

February 4th
Presidential electors select George Washington first President and John Adams Vice President.

September 25th
Resolutions of the U.S. Congress proposing amendments to the Constitution submitted to the states for ratification.

CITIZENSHIP

Celebrations

A Celebration of Citizenship

On September 16, 1987 every public and private elementary, middle and high school in the Commonwealth has been invited to design its own unique program of activities involving administrators, teachers, students and as many parents and interested community members as possible. On September 16th, 1987 at 1:00 p.m. EDT students will recite the Pledge of Allegiance in local schools throughout the nation. Participating elementary schools eligible for teaching packets and cameras from Polaroid Corporation. Sponsored by American Newspaper Publishers Foundation.

This is My Constitution—Sign-On Project

Invites Americans of all ages to re-sign the Constitution. Facsimiles complete with 39 sign-on spaces are available from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Inc. Forms will be collected and compiled for presentation to President Reagan and Chief Justice Burger during the national celebration in Philadelphia on September 17th. Sponsored by National Conference for Christians and Jews.

Naturalization Ceremonies

Special ceremonies include June event in Boston with Lt. Governor Evelyn Murphy as the guest speaker. Each new American citizen was presented with a special copy of the Constitution.

On September 17, 1987 the Honorable Levin Campbell, Chief Justice of the U.S. Court of Appeals will preside over a naturalization ceremony aboard the USS Constitution.

Many organizations will sponsor public readings of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights throughout the Commonwealth.

1791

December 15th
Virginia ratifies the Bill of Rights thus meeting three-fourths ratification requirement for adoption.

LEGAL *and Bar Associations*

Boston Bar Association

Design for a *Bill of Rights Walkway* depicting individual and collective rights contained in the Bill of Rights.

Special Bicentennial edition of the *Boston Bar Journal* (September, 1987).

Radio discussion programs, a special speakers luncheon and a series of classes, led by volunteer lawyers, in the Boston public schools.

County Bar Association

Hampden County Bar Association presents to City of Springfield a special edition of Constitution for permanent display in Court Square Park.

Massachusetts Bar Association

Lawyers, the Constitution and the Public—150 Years Ago and Today—Conference co-sponsored by Old Sturbridge Village (April 24–25, 1987) with historical re-enactments, dramatizations and a debate: "Do the Justices of our Supreme Courts have a right to decide any law that has been passed by the Legislature is unconstitutional?"

Lawyers in the Classroom

Major educational campaign by the Massachusetts Bar Association to place lawyers in middle and high school classrooms on September 17, 1987 to lead discussion groups on the history and meaning of the Constitution.

Lawyer-in-the-classroom outreach program for September 17th.

Special Bicentennial issue of the *Massachusetts Law Review* in September, 1987

Taking a Constitutional: A Walking Tour of Constitutional Sites in Boston—A brochure which will serve as an adjunct to the already popular Freedom Trail tour.

1939

March 2nd
Massachusetts ratifies the Bill of Rights.

NATIONAL *Events*

Massachusetts Plans the Bicentennial

Representatives from national, state and local organizations gather in Boston to share ideas on Bicentennial planning. Keynote speech by Kitty Dukakis. Sponsored by the Massachusetts Bicentennial Commission, The Sheraton Corporation and The Massachusetts Division of Tourism.

All Roads Lead to Philadelphia

On May 25, 1987 Governor Michael Dukakis, along with a five-member citizen delegation from Massachusetts, attended ceremonies in Philadelphia to mark the 200th anniversary of the opening of the Constitution Convention in Philadelphia.

On September 17, 1987 Chief Justice Edward F. Hennessey of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court will join Chief Justices from the other thirteen original states in Philadelphia. The Chief Justices will participate in national ceremonies marking the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution.

We the People 200 Celebrates Massachusetts Day

By invitation of Mayor Wilson Goode of Philadelphia, the Westfield High School Band and the Springfield Central High School Jazz Choir perform in a series of concerts in Philadelphia as part of the national Bicentennial celebration.

National Bicentennial Commission Regional Conference

Chief Justice Warren Burger, Senator Edward Kennedy and other members of the National Bicentennial Commission meet in Boston with representatives from communities from the six-state region to plan and discuss Bicentennial programming.

1986

February 19th
Governor Michael S. Dukakis signs Executive Order establishing the Massachusetts Advisory Commission to Commemorate the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution.

Bicentennial Concert on the Esplanade

On September 12th, Ray Charles and the U.S. Air Force Band perform in a special salute to the Constitution. Sponsored by the Metropolitan District Commission.

City of Boston

A year-long salute to the Constitution is highlighted on September 12–20th with a week of celebration including fireworks, concerts, parades and neighborhood activities.

USS Constitution

Special turnaround cruise of the ship, USS Constitution on September 19th. Other visiting vessels taking part in the Bicentennial salute include USS Saipan, USS John Hancock, USS Conyngham and USS Pegasus. The USS Constitution Museum hosts special Constitution Ball.

Eastern States Exposition

One of America's largest fairs, located in West Springfield, plans events and activities to commemorate the theme, *The Spirit of the Constitution,* starting on September 16th.

Many and Diverse Community Exercises

Schools, communities and organizations throughout the Commonwealth plan major celebrations to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution.

CONSTITUTION WEEK

1987

September 17th Bicentennial of the signing of the United States Constitution.

. . . and a Special Commendation to the Communities

The initiative taken at the grass roots has been the driving force behind the Bicentennial celebration in Massachusetts. Community events include parades, fireworks, early American fairs, essay and poster contests, mock trials, tree planting and beautification efforts, Jefferson Meetings and major educational programs.

BICENTENNIAL COMMUNITIES

Attleboro, ***Ayer,*** *Belmont,* **Boston,** Blackstone, ***Brockton,*** *Brookfield,* **Cohasset,** Chicopee, ***Dennis,*** *Dighton,* **Douglas,** Dover, ***Dracut,*** *Dudley,* **East Bridgewater,** Easton, ***Fall River,*** *Fitchburg,* **Foxborough,** Gardner, ***Grafton,*** *Harvard,* **Haverhill,** Hingham, ***Holbrook,*** *Hull,* **Lancaster,** Lanesborough, ***Lawrence,*** *Leominster,* **Lexington,** Lunenburg, ***Lynnfield,*** *Manchester,* **Marblehead,** Marion, ***Marlboro,*** *Mattapoisett,* **Medford,** Middlefield, ***Middleton,*** *Milford,* **Milton,** Needham, ***Newton,*** *Northampton,* **Norwood,** Orleans, ***Palmer,*** *Plainville,* **Provincetown,** Rochester, ***Rowe,*** *Salem,* **Salisbury,** Sharon, ***Sherborn,*** *Shrewsbury,* **Spencer,** Springfield, ***Stoneham,*** *Sturbridge,* **Taunton,** Topsfield, ***Upton,*** *Wakefield,* **Wareham,** Warren, ***Webster,*** *Westborough,* **Westfield,** Wellfleet, ***Winthrop.***

Bicentennial Defense Community

Fort Devens

1988

February 6th Bicentennial of the ratification of the United States Constitution by Massachusetts.

The timetable includes research compiled by Mary Newman and Robert Faulkner for the 1981 edition of the Massachusetts Constitution, and by the research staff of the Commonwealth Museum, Office of the Secretary of State.

Massachusetts Advisory Commission
to Commemorate the Bicentennial
of the United States Constitution

State House, Room 114

Boston, Massachusetts 02133